



Economic and Social Council

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-ninth session
New York, 15 March-4 April 1995
Agenda item 6

PRIORITY THEMES

Algeria, Angola, Côte d'Ivoire*, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya,
Madagascar, Namibia and Zambia: draft resolution

Women in agriculture and rural development

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/174, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/15 and 1992/53, and Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 34/3, 35/7, 36/5 and 37/6,

Recalling also the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ which highlighted the key role of women in the development and production of food and agriculture, and in food security, and which recommended the establishment of multisectoral programmes to promote the productive capacity of poor rural women in food and animal production so as to create off-farm employment opportunities and to reduce their workload,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 June 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.



Referring to paragraphs 224-227 of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, as well as to chapter 24 of Agenda 21, 2/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, underlining the importance of women's role in the management and protection of the environment and in achieving a sustainable and equitable development,

Welcoming the adoption by the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 3/ which stressed the importance of the integration and full participation of women as both agents and beneficiaries in the development process,

Recalling the recommendations of the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: The Role of Women in Africa in the 1990s in 1989 on the need to design specific training programmes for women in the rural areas aimed at developing their technical skills in agriculture and other fields including environment, water and energy, within the global framework of the improvement of women's access to higher education in the field of science and technology,

Welcoming the adoption of the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, 4/ by the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, in Geneva in 1992,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa 5/ on food self-sufficiency and food security for Africa in 1964 and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 6/

Bearing in mind that rural areas still represent an important part of the African region, where rural populations may account for up to 85 per cent of the total population, that the agricultural sector can contribute up to 50 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and that the proportion of active rural women varies from 45 to 80 per cent of the agricultural labour force, producing up to 80 per cent of food crops,

Expressing deep concern that despite the fact that rural women significantly contribute to the well-being of rural families, to the livelihood of communities and to the national economy, their important role is not

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

3/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24) (Part I), chap. III.

4/ A/47/308-E/1992/97, annex.

5/ A/S-11/14, annex I.

6/ General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex.

sufficiently recognized, and their participation in the decision-making process at all levels is very reduced,

Aware of the need to recognize the importance of an understanding of gender issues within all areas of agricultural, social, economic, environmental and political life in order to achieve a balanced division of roles and responsibilities and an equitable access to resources and to the benefits of development,

Deeply concerned by the lack of economic independence of rural women owing to their lack of access to land ownership, productive resources, and employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and owing as well to inadequate professional and technical skills as a result of the restricted access of women to training and literacy programmes,

Noting that rural areas lack favourable social support services and resources, information on openings and opportunities, and enabling conditions that would allow rural women to fully participate in development,

Aware of the low self-esteem of rural women and their limited self-awareness concerning their possibilities and potentials and of the fact that there is poor communication on openings and opportunities,

Expressing deep concern about the marginalization of rural women, especially young women with small children, about women living in extreme poverty in rural areas and about the sexual harassment experienced by, and the violence perpetrated against, them, including in war-affected areas, as well as about the effect of male migration,

Aware of the need for rural women to become empowered to take an active part in development as well as of their need to have access to education, health and various social and economic support organizations and institutions,

Concerned about the worsening of the socio-economic status of rural women and of their life and working conditions, hindering their full integration in development,

1. Urges Governments to take action in support of rural women's full participation in the economy and in the political system by developing specific plans to meet the above-mentioned needs;
2. Strongly recommends reinforcement of Governments' accountability in setting up monitoring and evaluation measures to appraise progress made;
3. Urges Governments to integrate gender issues into mainstream research and policy initiatives in the field of agriculture and rural development, and to support, as appropriate, women's participation in policy-making and relevant institutions;
4. Calls upon Governments and international organizations, in particular United Nations organizations, to collect and disseminate information on the

situation of rural women, their concerns, and the strategies required for their advancement through the development of appropriate information channels;

5. Urges Governments on the one hand, to enforce existing legislation, in order to allow women to fully enjoy their legal rights and on the other, to promote legislative initiatives that guarantee equity in the wage system and increase the status of women in agriculture, family enterprises, the professions and the informal sector;

6. Also urges Governments to revise national legislation so as to give rural women rights regarding access to land ownership and technology as well as natural and productive resources;

7. Further urges Governments to formulate policies and provide effective support to rural women, with the assistance of international and non-governmental organizations, with respect to their gaining access to income-generating activities, and to ensure the development of economic structures that create new job opportunities, the development of entrepreneurship, the promotion of credit programmes that provide equity financing, so as to facilitate the starting up of small businesses among rural women, and the introduction of more efficient information systems to facilitate economic activities;

8. Calls upon Governments and financial institutions to provide support for the promotion of grass-roots-level credit programmes adapted to the needs and activities of rural women, so as to encourage and facilitate the start-up of small enterprises;

9. Recommends that Governments create and strengthen local advisory training programmes, and extension services, as well as basic and higher education for rural women, so as to increase their awareness about less-traditional careers and business opportunities and to improve their access to them;

10. Calls upon Governments to promote the provision of primary medical care in rural areas, to promote low-cost primary health care, and to develop and promote sensitization campaigns to encourage low-income rural women to utilize primary health-care facilities;

11. Appeals to numerous Governments that did not ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ^{2/} to do so and to others to effectively enforce it, in particular with respect to the Convention's provisions concerning rape, forced prostitution and trafficking in human beings;

12. Urges Governments to promote an equitable distribution of income and resources for both economically productive and reproductive tasks and activities, and to establish pension and social security schemes for rural people;

^{2/} General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

13. Recommends that Governments take into account the concepts of gender, socio-economic gender analysis, population, environment and poverty eradication in all policies and programmes and provide rural women with the necessary incentives, capacities and skills to effectively carry out the management of the natural resources that they depend on, and to secure a healthy environment and shelter;

14. Strongly appeals to all women, in particular rural women, to be aware of and develop their potential and actively engage, individually or in groups, in the fight for the enforcement of their rights, the improvement of their civil, personal and professional status, and the increasing of their representation in sufficient number in all policy-making, decision-making and consultative bodies and functions;

15. Strongly recommends that Governments promote applied technological research, policy and programmes in the fields of time- and energy-consuming domestic tasks, food production, and processing and storage of food, in order to ensure the saving of time for more remunerative and cultural activities and increase the efficiency and income of rural women;

16. Recommends that Governments promote the establishment of any social infrastructure in rural areas that encourages women, including poor women, to develop capacities and skills such as leadership in administrative and financial management for collective and community life, and that supports rural women's organizations and their participation in representative and economic bodies (for example, farmers' organizations, workers' unions, cooperatives and associations);

17. Requests that the Secretary-General and Governments ensure that the issues of rural women and development programmes are an integral part of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade 8/ and of the national strategies for the Decade.



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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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New York, 15 March-4 April 1995
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Draft provisional agenda and documentation

1. Election of officers

(Legislative authority: rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council)

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII); rules 5 and 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council)

3. Programming and coordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system

(Legislative authority: Programme planning regulation 4.12; General Assembly resolutions 45/125, 45/239 C, 46/100, 47/93, 48/105, 49/161; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/60, 1989/30, 1989/105, 1993/9, 1993/16, 1994/6, 1994/-)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the draft of the revised system-wide-medium-term plan for the period 1996-2001

Note by the Secretary-General on proposals for the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of women in the Secretariat

4. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (CSW decision ...)

5. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

(a) Priority themes

(Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15)

(i) Elimination of stereotyping in the mass media;

(ii) Child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women;

(iii) Education for peace

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on elimination of stereotyping in the mass media

Report of the Secretary-General on child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women

Report of the Secretary-General on education for peace

(b) Other issues

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 34/180, 44/77, 45/124, 45/129, 46/79, 47/94, 47/95, 48/108, 49/161; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/27, 1990/8, 1992/15, 1992/16, 1992/17, 1993/13, 1993/14, 1993/15, 1994/-, 1994/-)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General on the extent to which violations of women's human rights have been addressed by human rights mechanisms

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the fifteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Secretary-General on violence against migrant women workers

Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fortieth session



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Agenda item 3

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION
FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Australia, Austria, Bangladesh*, Belgium, Botswana*, Brazil*,
Bulgaria, Cameroon*, Canada*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Cyprus, Denmark*,
Estonia*, Finland, France, Germany*, Greece, Iceland*, Ireland*,
Italy*, Latvia*, Lithuania*, Malawi*, Netherlands*, Nicaragua*,
Nigeria*, Norway*, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain, Sweden*,
Switzerland*, Tonga*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland*, United States of America* and Zambia: draft
decision

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Fourth
World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women, as the preparatory body for the
Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recommends the following draft resolution to the General Assembly for its
consideration as soon as possible.

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional
commissions of the Economic and Social Council.



Draft resolution

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Fourth
World Conference on Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/20 of 26 May 1987, in which the Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should be designated as the preparatory body for world conferences on women,

Further recalling resolution 37/7 of the Commission on the Status of Women, concerning preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 48/108 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly adopted modalities for participation in and contributions to the World Conference on Women and its preparatory process by non-governmental organizations,

Emphasizing that the rules for accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Fourth World Conference, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 48/108, should be applied transparently and fairly,

Reaffirming the importance of participation by non-governmental organizations in the Fourth World Conference and its preparatory process,

Noting that there is need for more time and opportunity for many non-governmental organizations to clarify their qualifications for accreditation to the Fourth World Conference,

1. Requests that the secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women immediately communicate in writing with each non-governmental organization that, by 15 March 1995, had applied for accreditation to the Conference but had not yet been accredited, listing the reasons that the secretariat had not forwarded the name of the organization to the Commission on the Status of Women for accreditation;

2. Requests that the secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women invite those non-governmental organizations referred to in operative paragraph 1 to submit, within four weeks of the date of transmittal of the secretariat's written communication, further relevant information concerning their qualifications for accreditation;

3. Also requests that the secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women be responsible for the receipt and evaluation, in accordance with the provisions of the annex to General Assembly resolution 48/108, of all previously

supplied information as well as that submitted by non-governmental organizations under the terms of operative paragraph 2;

4. Further requests that the secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women, prior to the convening of the 1995 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, prepare a list of those non-governmental organizations from operative paragraph 1 that, considering all available information, appear to have met the criteria set out in General Assembly resolution 48/108 for accreditation to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

5. Requests that the secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women also provide a list of those non-governmental organizations from operative paragraph 1 that the secretariat does not recommend for accreditation, along with the reasons for non-recommendation, to all members of the Council no later than one week prior to the 1995 substantive session of the Council;

6. Requests that the General Assembly authorize the Council at its 1995 substantive session to decide on all pending proposals for accreditation of the non-governmental organizations on the lists drawn up in accordance with operative paragraphs 4 and 5;

7. Also requests that the secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women, after the final consideration by the Council of the non-governmental organizations from operative paragraph 1, promptly notify those organizations of the final determination by the Council.



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Agenda item 3

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairperson

Provisional agenda and proposed organization of work
of the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/129 of 14 December 1990 and 46/98 of 16 December 1991, in which the General Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990 in which the Council recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995 and requested that the Commission on the Status of Women act as the preparatory body for the conference,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 47/95 of 16 December 1992, in which the General Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council decision 1992/272 of 30 July 1992, in which the Council expressed its appreciation to the Government of China for its offer to act as host for the Conference, to be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, as well as Assembly resolutions 48/108 of 20 December 1993 and 49/161 of 23 December 1994,

1. Notes that, in accordance with rule 47 of its rules of procedure, the Conference may establish one or more main committees;
2. Recommends that the oral statements made during the Conference should not exceed seven minutes, it being understood that full-length statements may be circulated in writing;
3. Recommends that the Conference adopt the provisional agenda and organization of work annexed to the present resolution.



Annex I

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committees.*
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. General exchange of views on:
 - (a) Second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000;
 - (b) Main conclusions and recommendations of regional preparatory conferences;
9. Platform for Action.
10. Meeting of heads of State or Government.
11. Adoption of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women.
12. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

* The Chairmen of the Main Committees would be elected in plenary meeting; officers of the Main Committee other than the Chairmen would be elected by the Main Committee.

Annex II

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FOURTH WORLD
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, 4-15 SEPTEMBER 1995

For purposes of the organization of work contained in the appendix below, the following guidelines will apply:

(a) Statements to be presented through 4-13 September will be limited to seven minutes. Longer statements may be circulated in writing. Each Government may present two statements during the Summit;

(b) During the period 4-13 September, a general exchange of views will be held at which personal representatives of heads of State or Government or other appropriate high-level representatives specifically designated by Governments may make statements. Executive heads of agencies of the United Nations system, as well as representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, may also present statements in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference;

(c) On 15 July 1995, the Secretariat will open a list of speakers for the general exchange of views (4-13 September);

(d) Normal meeting hours for the Conference will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Appendix

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The following programme of work is proposed for the Fourth World Conference on Women:

(a) On Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 September, informal pre-Conference consultations will be held to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters;

(b) The general debate will take place in plenary meeting from 4 to 13 September;

(c) In accordance with rule 47 of its rules of procedure, the Conference will establish two Main Committees to consider the draft Platform for Action, also from 4 to 13 September, as follows:

Committee I (chapters III and IV);

Committee II (chapters I, II, V and VI);

(d) Consideration of the reports of the Main Committees and the adoption of the Platform for Action will take place on Thursday and Friday, 14 and 15 September.
